

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Editor Hustler:

By the grace of your courtesy in extending to me the necessary space I will submit a few final remarks on road matters in general, and Supervisor Patton in particular, for the thoughtful consideration of Henderson county tax payers.

Now, Mr. Patton, I shall be as brief as possible with you and confine my remarks to facts of interest only, free from abusive language of a personal nature, and excluding ridicule altogether, which was so characteristic of your article and evidently employed because facts were not at hand. Were it not the McDowell road affair I would not bother to reply at all to your article of "much length but no strength," so aptly described by a mutual friend.

Mr. Patton you have repeatedly said in public print I misstated facts. Why do you specifically name some lies I have told? Come out like a man and name just one. I challenge you to do it. You shout "concrete" at me to divert attention from my criticisms of your sand-clay methods. You know you did not follow the method advocated and emphasized by Mr. Spoon, or the instructions of Dr. Pratt; and did not deliberately refuse the assistance of Uncle Sam's road experts.

You say I am a crank. That's all right, I take cracks to turn things, and sometimes cracks "kick" too, when the "spark is high" and public money is being wasted. Now I would like to know what you are, a self constituted sand-clay road expert I suppose. You say you have gone around a good deal, at the expense of the public treasury, looking at roads in different states. Then you poke fun at me about my travels. I want to say to you I have never junketed over the country on the people's money, but paid for what traveling I have done out of my own pocket. And I would like to ask you if you ever saw, in your travels paid for with public funds, or otherwise, sand-clay roads built like you built them in Henderson county? If the road officials turned over the bond money to you and you have not spent it wisely, the tax payers will hold you responsible and not the officials. No one need have any fear of criticism who has honestly and conscientiously performed his duty. Handling other people's money is a serious matter, especially public funds. The time once was when nobody paid much attention to these matters, but there has been a change. If the road officials turned these funds over to you they should not have done it, but if you accepted them you accepted the responsibility also and you can not now shelter under the beard. You seem to have been anxious enough to handle the money, but when the day of reckoning comes you are willing to let the board share the responsibility. I will tell you, Mr. Patton, what your trouble is as a public official: you are too stubborn and head-strong and bent on having your own way to achieve the best results. You think you know best and will therefore not listen to any one else. And these very characteristics, I believe, are in some measure responsible for that old dredge lying idle out here in Mud Creek. It cost over \$3500 of somebody's money. You should have known the sand in Mud Creek is half mud and entirely too fine for road building. That thing has cost enough to buy all modern road machinery necessary for building macadam, concrete, bituthic or any other roads all over Henderson county.

I have repeatedly said we are financially unable to build concrete roads under present methods and management, at least. You, however, very much overestimate the cost at which such roads could be constructed. Your estimates do not mention width, thickness, etc., but are like that of the cost of removing the rock ledge on the McDowell road, which I will come to presently. So it is not a question of what sort of roads we might have had, or what we may have some time in the future, but what we now have. Therefore it behooves us to make the best use of our road funds if we ever have any more, in maintaining the roads we have and in constructing other roads, and above all else never again allow any body to be fooled or lead to believe sand-clay will make a permanent road requiring no repairs. Nothing was ever said about the upkeep of these roads until the money was just about spent. Now we hear a great deal about "upkeep" and are doomed to hear a great deal more. I really believe properly constructed sand-clay

roads, (not good roads in name only), could be made fairly satisfactory provided they are properly maintained. This, however, must be done systematically and scientifically, and I know of no better way than the patrol system. Now, Mr. Patton, I will pay my respects to your remarkable statement about the ledge of rock on the McDowell road near Bat Cave. You say my statement "in regard to this rock is as just, as true, as any statement I have made, that 'it is a fair sample.' In other words you say inferentially, if my statement is true, then every thing else I have said is true because 'it is a fair sample.' Then if I prove my statement to be true you admit all I have said is true and that your statement is absolutely false. Now listen. The secretary of the road club states the total cost of putting the road through this particular cliff, including the cost of dynamite furnished by the county, and full pay for all labor, was about \$92.00.

Is this enough? If not just go over to Bat Cave and ask the people about it. They all know and will not only tell you about this, but will tell you also that not one foot of this road from Bat Cave to the McDowell line, a distance of 1.4 miles, is built on your survey. They say the only thing you did in assisting them to locate the road was to look over their proposed route and condemn it. Your survey was up one side of the mountain on a 5 per cent grade, and down the other side on a 6 per cent grade. The road as actually built parallel with your survey averages about 3 per cent, and the distance is less than one-half that of your proposed route. You estimated, the cost of removing the ledge of rock would be \$1200. It was removed for \$92. Does this look like 'you are a practical engineer, or an expert road builder? You give yourself a lot of praise for helping the "good people" through the cliff, when you certainly must have known this road was completed through the ledge months before the chain gang went to Bat Cave. The gang did a lot of good work on other parts of this road for which these people are duly grateful, but the convicts never touched this special ledge of rock in question, except with their feet in passing over and from their work. These people spent "considerable time in removing the rock cliff" which "was allowed to fall in the river, forcing the water out of its bed" which you say you did. Talk about misstating facts. Who has misstated these facts Mr. Patton, you or I? Let the people of Bat Cave, Broad River and Bald Mountain decide it.

You seem to think I don't know anything about that section of the county. Why, Press, I was born and raised there. I know those people and they know me, and when you attempt to tell them about me you are barking up the wrong persimmon tree.

"I repeat, Mr. Hudgins, that your statement in regard to this road, as just, as true, as any statement you have made in regard to my work in Henderson county. It is a fair sample." How does that read to you now Mr. Patton. Don't you wish you had not said it. I am sorry for you, you have my sympathy in a way. You will know better next time. So "Fare thee well Bro. Watkins."

S. H. HUDGINS.

IN FAVOR OF DAUGHTRIDGE FOR GOVERNOR.

Bear Wallow, N. C., May 1, 1916.
Editor French Broad Hustler:

As a farmer I want to say a few words to the farmers of Henderson county. Eighty per cent of the Democrats of North Carolina are farmers, and they should have a voice in selecting the next Governor of the State. E. L. Daughtridge, is a farmer, and a business man.

He is an ardent advocate of more schools and better schools. He believes in good roads and in the co-operation and organization of farmers for their mutual welfare and protection. He has made a faithful and efficient public official and deserves our undivided and active support.

As a life long Democratic farmer who has the best interests of the state at heart, I appeal to you to work for E. L. Daughtridge.

C. OATES.

A. W. Horton, president of the Spartanburg creamery states that on last Wednesday eleven hundred pounds of cream was received—the heaviest for any one day since the establishment of the creamery.

NORTH CAROLINA WILL EXPORT CORN IN TEN YEARS.

Member State Board Agriculture Finds Truckers Prosperous in Eastern Carolina With Berries High.

"Ten years from now North Carolina will be exporting corn," said Albert Cannon, member of the state board of agriculture, yesterday.

Mr. Cannon has been a member of the board for the past eighteen years. He was appointed by Governor Aycock. He has just finished an inspection trip of several of the State's experiment farms, during which inspection trip he traveled 1,175 miles by rail. He walked about twice 1,175 miles, he believes. "The truckers near Wilmington are getting the high price of \$3.50 a crate for their strawberries," continued Mr. Cannon. "At one station alone I saw twenty-six express cars being loaded with the berries. So long as the dry weather continues, the price will remain high. There is an abundant crop, and the truckers are making money."

"Ninety-five per cent of the potato crop is contracted for down there. The contract cover up to June 13, and the price is the top-notch one of \$1.75 a bushel. I saw one farm there with 200 acres of potatoes planted."

"Many thousands of acres of peat land are now being drained, and reclaimed along the coast. Before the dredges went in there this land was assessed for taxation at fifty cents an acre. It is now assessed for taxation at \$40 an acre. I don't suppose there is any richer land in the whole world than this. It is a peat, four or five feet deep, of a dark mahogany color, and not deep black like the soil of Illinois. The crop this land is capable of producing is simply enormous. As I have said, within ten years from now North Carolina will be exporting corn, instead of importing it as now."

"They are putting down many artesian wells along the eastern coast, any of them flow well above the level of the ground. Some of the water has a taste of sulphur, but otherwise is quite satisfactory. Everybody seems prosperous in that part of the state, and the indications are this prosperity will increase."

"Among the other experiment stations I visited was the Irrell farm. They have 400 different varieties of grapes planted there, and are going to still further increase their acreage and varieties. The Swannanoa and Blantyre farms will be inspected shortly."

Mr. Cannon thinks North Carolina a wonderful state, and one greatly blessed by the Creator in natural and undeveloped wealth. The seacoast, says he, is a source of almost unlimited wealth from its fisheries and oyster beds. The great coastal plain is going to produce corn for export when the drainage projects are completed. The comes the Piedmont section, with its cotton fields and cotton mills, and beyond that the mountains of Western North Carolina, containing as yet unknown wealth, and health that is even more valuable. Asheville Citizen.

ALL-STEEL COACHES.

The announcement that the Southern Railway company has purchased 45 locomotives is an important item in the day's news, but it is not so important from the standpoint of the traveling public as the announcement that 10 all-steel passenger cars have been added to the rolling stock of this company. All-steel passenger coaches have become a necessity; they are cheaper in the long run than the wooden cars, because investigation has shown that the loss of life is reduced to a minimum in wrecks where the all-steel cars are used. That will save law suits, and a railroad company prefers to avoid litigation as much as possible despite the popular belief that railroads fight everything. The Southern will add 1,500 all-steel center sill box cars and 100 steel center sill caboose cars.

This is an indication of prosperity that every passenger and shipper will be glad to note.

\$7,000,000 FOR DOCKS.

Washington, May 4.—Appropriations of \$5,500,000 each for the building of new dry docks at Norfolk and Philadelphia navy yards have been included in the naval bill by the house naval affairs committee. The proposed docks will be among the largest in the United States and will accommodate the biggest ships in the navy.

WILKES COUNTY LEADING IN MOONLIGHT SCHOOLS.

Fifty-Five Schools Had Three Hundred and Twelve Adults Enrolled.

Of all counties reporting Moonlight School activities during the past year, Wilkes led with three hundred and twelve men and women enrolled in fifty-five schools. Sixty-four of these learned to read and write, according to the report of Superintendent C. C. Wright, of the Wilkes school. The oldest Moonlight School pupil in the county was seventy years, and the youngest was twenty-two. Only eighty-two of the three hundred and twelve were women.

A number of reports have just been received by the Community Service Bureau, piling up the totals. Secretary Crosby is just now encountering the great snag of the undertaking. An army of teachers arose almost at call to sweep illiteracy of the State. In all but very few of the counties the success has been little short of miraculous. But with results achieved that will put North Carolina up toward the top of those States which have slashed the illiteracy column by the wholesale, the county authorities become strangely reticent, modest, perhaps.

In Madison county, thirty-eight illiterates were taught in thirteen schools. Twenty-three of them learned to read and write. The oldest student enrolled was seventy-two years of age, and the youngest was twenty-three.

Sampson county schools operating from December 5 to January 30 taught eleven illiterates, seven men and four women. Four of them learned to read and write.

Out of one hundred and twenty illiterates reported by teachers in Robeson county thirty learned to read and write. Eight schools were operated. The oldest was seventy years and the youngest twenty-three.

Alexander had twenty schools, a hundred and eighty pupils. The schools operated from December 30 to January 31 and eighty men and women learned to read and write. The oldest was sixty-two years of age and the youngest was eighteen.

Nash county had fifty-six illiterates to learn the fundamentals out of a total moonlight enrollment of a hundred and twenty-five. Fifteen schools were operating.

Transylvania, with schools open from October 4 to December 24, had thirty-two illiterates in six schools. Twenty-four of these learned to read and write. The oldest was fifty-eight and the youngest thirteen.

Seven schools were taught in Macon county. Forty-three illiterates were enrolled. The oldest was fifty-three years and the youngest was twenty-one.—Raleigh News & Observer.

GOV. VANCE'S LAW OFFICE REMOVED BY PROGRESS.

Eventually Will be Placed on Asheville Court House Lawn—Redolent With Memories.

Asheville, May 3.—Giving way before the progress of the times, the little house formerly used as a law office by Gov. Zebulon B. Vance, has been removed from its location on Spruce street to another location and will probably be placed eventually on the court house lawn, there to remain as a monument to the famous man whose many cases were prepared within its walls.

The little old house is dingy, now. The boards of the floor are rotten and breaking, sagging down toward the middle, and the ceiling shows the effects of the years that it has withstood. Redolent with memories of the past, the little house has stood at one location on Spruce street ever since the death of the famous war governor—unused by human since the governor left it.

It has always been an object of curiosity and a show place for the thousands of tourists who visit this section annually.

FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS FOUND IN BOILER.

Effort to Find Out Where the Money Came From and Who Hid It.

Mexico City, May 4.—The sum of \$500,000 in \$100 bills was recently found by two children, Rafael and Antogenes Campos, inmates of the government refuge, which occupied a building used as a legislative palace and built by a New York contractor. The money was discovered in an old chimney underneath the palace. The children gave it to the director of the home who gave them \$100 as a reward. Later they showed the \$100 to Maria Ruiz, whom they were visiting. Mme. Ruiz informed the authorities and then strangely disappeared.

Agents are trying to find out where the money came from and who hid it. The disposition of the fortune has not been determined.

POATASH DEPOSITS, FIFTY PER CENT PURE, LOCATED.

At a Depth of Many Feet in the Vicinity of New Bern.

New Bern, May 3.—A deposit of some mineral supposed to be potash and which is in a vein supposed to be many feet wide and known to be 60 feet deep, has been discovered at a depth of 500 feet out at the local waterworks where "Dynamite" Wilkins, noted well driller, is engaged in deepening a well that is absolutely pure.

When Wilkins struck the deposit and parts of it were brought to the surface, he at once declared that it was potash and that it was at least 50 per cent pure. Tests have been given the substance by local chemists and they declare that it is their belief that it really is potash.

Specimens are to be sent to the State chemist to be analyzed and the report from this examination will be eagerly awaited here. Potash is now selling for about \$500 a ton and if the deposit proves to be such and is large enough to warrant sinking a shaft to that depth for the purpose of removing it, the owners of the land on which it is located could soon be "rolling in wealth" from the receipts from its sales.

The Quality Shop

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We invite you to visit us in
Our New Quarters
Our Millinery Department is
most attractive at this time

RALEIGH NEWS LETTER.

(Special Correspondence.)

Raleigh, N. C., May 9.—Drawn to Raleigh largely by the meeting here today of the Democratic State Committee, the presence of a large number of leading party men during the last few days has added much to the interest felt in the outcome of the State primary three weeks hence. Opportunity was afforded through the views of some of these well posted gentlemen of learning something of the prospects of the candidates for nomination—of "sounding the depths" of the water drawn by the craft with which they have been navigating the the political sea.

The meeting of the State committee today was called by Chairman Warren by the express stipulation of the party Plan or Organization which, in plain terms required it of him in the following language (quoted from Sec. 2 of the Plan or Organization), to wit:

Sec. 2. That as early as practicable after each State convention the chairman shall call the State Democratic Executive Committee to meet for the purpose of electing a chairman and a secretary of said committee for the term of two years and until their successors shall be elected."

Having assembled the committee, the duty resting upon Chairman Warren was discharged. The subsequent action of the committee is the affair of the gentlemen composing it and for which the majority is responsible—a responsibility which they apparently very willingly assume, for they are unquestionably responsible men.

Talking with some of the visitors here this week I was struck with the tributes which they paid to the ability and worth of the present Assistant Attorney General T. H. Calvert, who has so brilliantly performed his work in conjunction with Mr. Bickett, a labor which has been valuable in fitting him for the promotion which he asks, if the primary shall name him as the party's nominee for Attorney General. Praise from Sir Hubert is praise indeed, and the statements voluntarily made by some of the greatest lawyers in North Carolina leave no doubt in the mind of a layman of the eminent fitness of Mr. Calvert for the position. With such men as he and the other three gentlemen aspiring to office, it does look like the party could make no serious mistake. But experience is a big asset to the State in making a selection in this instance. Mr. Calvert, who is a native of Chatham county where he married and resided for some years, is the author of several important law books and of wide practice in the highest courts charged with the conduct of many important cases. He is at present in Washington arguing a civil case before the Supreme Court of the United States. He announced his ambition to become the successor of Mr. Bickett a year ago, and, according to the reports which reach here, his candidacy is popular with the voters all over the State.

I failed to find any one who favored a change in the present personnel of the State corporation commission. There is only one of them whose term expires soon, that of Commissioner W. T. Lee who is now serving his first term. One candidate is opposing him in the primary, but he doesn't seem to be making much headway, as no good reason has been advanced for displacing the present admittedly competent and effective incumbent at the close of his one term of office. Mr. Lee's worth to the commission is largely due to his splendid equipment as a business man, who has made a success of his own business. And with the average voter, who endorses the sentiment that "the horse who pulls the plow should share in the fodder," feels that his long activity and faithful party service furnish no excuse for rejecting his claim on a renomination as an endorsement of the work done during his first term.

The Blue Sky Law Upheld.

The "Blue Sky Laws," which were enacted to prevent fraud and imposition upon the people of North Carolina have been upheld by the State Supreme Court in a decision just handed down in the case of State against Agency. Under these acts it is unlawful for any foreign corporation to offer stocks, bonds and other securities for sale here without first securing license from the State Commissioner of Insurance. By his rigid examination into the character of the concerns applying for such license, Commissioner Young has refused license to many questionable companies and corporations which sought to unload so-called "securities,"

stocks and bonds and policies and other worthless "wild-cat" paper. In the above noted case and several others pending the defendants were arrested for attempting to sell or for the sale of such "securities" without securing the necessary license and appealed upon conviction in the Superior Court.

Commissioner Young has probably saved more money to the State, and turned it into the State treasury, than any other public official in North Carolina. He has held the office ever since it was created and there is no man in the State who could perform its duties as well as he—certainly not until he had received years of training and practice. He will, of course, be well-nigh unanimously nominated in the primary.

Perpetuity of the Primary Law.

One hears considerable opposition to the workings of the new State primary law, but it also has its friends and supporters. The latter all say that it is too early to pass judgment on it; that we should wait and give it a fair trial. There is no denying the argument of its opponents that it "takes the ginger out of conventions" and to some extent depresses the activities of some party workers. But as there will be very little doing in State elections two years hence, the next legislature will probably not exert itself to repeal the law. Four years from now the law will stand or fall on its merits—that is the general opinion.

Meantime it can be said that both the Daughtridge and Bickett people remain as hopeful as ever—and for the reasons heretofore recited in these letters. LLEWAXAM.

TOAD BEATS HEN'S RECORDS.

Industrious "Hopper" Lays 1000 Eggs Annually and Lives 40 Years.

The toad lives from 10 to 40 years and it can lay more than 1,000 eggs a year. It has lived two years without food but cannot live long under water. It never takes dead or motionless food. It captures and devours wasps, yellowjackets, ants, beetles, worms, spiders, snails, bugs, grasshoppers, crickets, weevils, caterpillars, moths, etc. In 24 hours the toad consumes enough food to fill its stomach four times.

A single toad will in three months devour more than 10,000 insects. If every ten of these would have done 1 cent damage, the toad has saved \$100. Evidently the toad is a valuable friend to the farmer, gardener and fruit grower, and can be made especially useful in the greenhouse, garden and berry patch.—Indiana Farmer.

WILL AGAIN INDORSE GUDGER.

Washington, May 3.—Former Congressman James M. Gudger, Jr., is to be indorsed again for a federal job. This time it is to be a place on the federal court of claims. Is it understood that Senators Overman and Simmons will ask the President tomorrow to give him a place on the bench. There is a vacancy now caused by the retirement of Judge Atkinson.

It is not believed that Mr. Gudger will be named. The cry has already gone to the White House that North Carolina has her share of the patronage and the President is constantly reminded of the fact that the south is getting too much federal pie. Election times are close and the administration wants to give what little patronage that is left to sections of the country where it will do the most good.

AIRMAN BREAKS WORLD'S RECORD

Newport News, Va., May 4.—Records for duration and distance with six passengers were established today before pilot E. T. McCauley, flying the Curtiss hydroaeroplane, the largest in the world, was forced to abandon the flight to Baltimore and back, on account of rain.

The machine had reached the mouth of the Potomac River a distance of 85 miles from this city when a heavy rain storm broke as Point Lookout was being passed.

The total distance of 170 miles was covered in two hours and 23 minutes. An orator at one of the university unions bore off the palm when declared that "The British lion, whether it is roaming the deserts of India or climbing the forests of Canada will not draw in its horns nor retire into its shell."

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by Trading with

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